

Message Text

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43

ACTION SMI-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 OES-05 RSC-01 /017 W

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R 031039Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4449

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

UNCLS CALCUTTA 0280

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, IN

SUBJ: SECRETARY RIPLEY'S FIELD TRIP

1. DR. AND MRS. RIPLEY ARRIVED CALCUTTA FEB 1 AND DEPARTED FOR JAMSHEDPUR ON SCHEDULE FEB 2 WITH ALL EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION.

2. RIPLEY REQUESTS THAT FOLLOWING MESSAGE BE PASSED TO SMITH-SONIAN: QUOTE PLEASE ADD TO INFORMATION FOR FRANK KELLOGG THAT ALTHOUGH MR. GETTY DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF FORMALLY TO RENEWING PRIZE, I SAID IT MUST BE SOON, BY DINNER FEBRUARY 19. HE ASKED IF WE COULD HAVE THE SAME JURORS AND I AGREED WHICH PLEASED HIM. THIS SEEMED POSITIVE. REGARDING MY SCHEDULE UNTIL MARCH ONE, I WILL TELEGRAPH CONGEN CALCUTTA AND AMEMBASSY DELHI FROM TATA OFFICE JAMSHEDPUR OUR ONWARD PLANS FOR CONTACTS. PLEASE TELL FAMILY ALL WELL. RIPLEY UNQUOTE.

3. CONGEN EXPERIENCED CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY, CONTRARY TO PRIOR VERBAL ASSURANCES, IN CLEARING EQUIPMENT AND AMMO CARRIED BY RIPLEYS SINCE THEY DID NOT HAVE AN ENTRY POSSESSION LICENSE FROM INDIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. RIPLEYS HAD BEEN GRANTED ENTRY VISAS, NOT TOURIST VISAS, AND THIS FACT PRECLUDED ISSUANCE OF ROUTING 30-DAY TEMPORARY LICENSE AT AIRPORT. ADDITIONALLY, CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ATTEMPTED COLLECT DUTY ON 200 ROUNDS OF AMMO SINCE EACH PERSON PERMITTED DUTY FREE IMPORT OF 200 ROUNDS ONLY AND RIPLEYS CARRIED 600

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ROUNDS. IMPORTATION OF BOTH GUNS AND AMMO WAS EFFECTED ONLY

AFTER NUMEROUS VISITS TO GOI OFFICIALS AND A LETTER OF GUARANTEE
TO CUSTOMS. DEPARTMENT AND NEW DELHI SHOULD NOTE FOR FUTURE
VISITS OF THIS TYPE THAT ARMS POSSESSION LICENSE IS INDEED
NECESSARY IN VIEW GOI'S CONCERN ON ISSUE OF IMPORTED GUNS
AND AMMUNITION. INFORMED SOURCE HERE FURTHER STATES THAT EVEN
ISSUANCE OF AFOREMENTIONED 30-DAY TEMPORARY LICENSE WILL BE
DISCONTINUED IN NEAR FUTQRE. PERHAPS INDIAN EMBASSY
OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON AND MR. RANJIT SINGH SHOULD BE INFORMED
OF ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS.
ROSSELOT

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